

REMARKS

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-8 are pending.

Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 USC 102(a) as being anticipated by Shinichi (JP 11283127).

According to the foregoing, the claims are amended, and, thus, claims 1-8 remain pending for reconsideration, which is respectfully requested.

No new matter has been added in this response.

REJECTION

The independent claims are 1, 6, 7, and 8. Independent claims 1 and 7 are amended for clarity.

The Office Action page 2, item 4, in rejecting the independent claims 1 and 7, appears to consider the claimed present invention's, "**recognition code**" to be allegedly similar to Shinichi's "**identification code**." However, it is readily apparent they differ from each other for the reasons described below:

At page 2, item 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner asserts the claimed present invention's "means for **issuing the recognition code for the number of reserved points** in accordance with **a use request withof the number of reserved points from the customer**," is discussed by Shinichi's paragraph 8 description, "the customer receives the identification code in order to access the reserved points system." However, Shinichi's paragraph 8, lines 1-9, discusses:

... first read-in means for reading identification data from a card having a recording part on which at least identification data is recorded; collation means for collating the identification data read by the first read-in means and identification code inputted from the outside; read-out means for reading the number of available points based on the identification data from a host computer in a case where the identification data and the identification code coincide with each other as a result of collation by the collation means.

Shinichi's "identification data" is fixedly memorized in the card as a form of authentication to be compared with identification code input from the outside, so a number of available points based on the identification data can be read from a host. See also, Shinichi's paragraph 9, lines

1-9 and paragraph 14.

Although Shinichi might discuss associating its identification data read from the card with available points on the host, in contrast to Shinichi's "**identification data**," the claimed present invention's "**recognition code**" is issued based upon a "**a use request withof the number of reserved points from the customer**," i.e., a "**recognition code**" **issued on a request basis**. In other words, the claimed present invention as recited in independent claims 1, 6, 7 and 8, using claim 1 as an example, provides, "**a use management database** recording ... **a recognition code for the number of reserved points**" and "**means for *issuing the recognition code for the number of reserved points* in accordance *with a use request withof the number of reserved points from the customer***," which is patentably distinguishing from Shinichi's "identification data." It is readily apparent Shinichi's paragraph 8 description, "the customer receives the identification code in order to access the reserved points system," fails to disclose, either expressly or inherently, the claimed present invention's "means for **issuing the recognition code for the number of reserved points** in accordance **with a use request withof the number of reserved points from the customer**," because Shinichi fails to disclose or suggest any type of "**issuing the recognition code ... in accordance *with a use request withof the number of reserved points from the customer***."

Further, the Office Action in page 3, alleges Shinichi's paragraph 8 discusses "the user receives the points and the recognition code in order to access the system," however, Shinichi is silent on the claimed present invention's, "**issuing the recognition code for the number of reserved points ... *with a use request withof the number of reserved points from the customer***" and "**transmitting** data of **a point use ticket**, comprising **the number of reserved points that are issued** and **the recognition code for the number of reserved points**, to the terminal device for use of the point use ticket by the customer," because Shinichi's ticket issuance information fails to disclose, either expressly or inherently, the claimed present invention's, "**recognition code for the number of reserved points**" which is provided based upon "**issuing the recognition code for the number of reserved points ... *with a use request withof the number of reserved points from the customer***" (e.g., claim 1).

Support for the claim amendment can be found, for example, in page 8, lines 14-20, page 9, line 29 to page 10, line 20, page 14, lines 5-23, page 16, lines 10-20, and FIGS. 7, 10 and 11, of the present Application.

Similarly for independent claims 6-8, in contrast to Shinichi, the claimed present invention

provides, "***issuing a recognition code for the number of reserved points, in accordance with a point use request by the customer, along with the number of reserved points entered by from the customer***" (e.g., claim 6).

Shinichi fails to disclose or suggest, either expressly or inherently, every element recited in independent claims 1, 6, 7 and 8, so Shinichi cannot anticipate the claimed present invention.

Further, dependent claims 2-5 recite patentably distinguishing features of their own and/or are at least patentably distinguishing over the relied upon references due to their dependencies from independent claim 1.

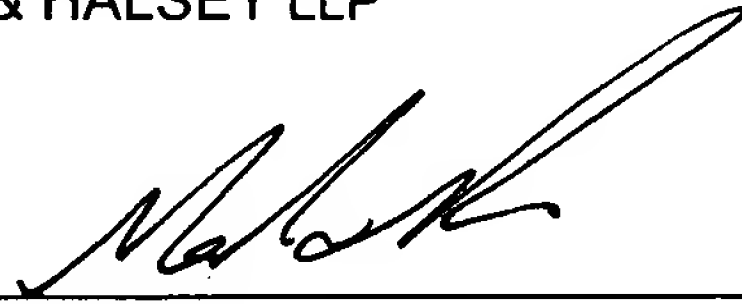
CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

Respectfully submitted,
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